

Strings and p -branes with or without spin degrees of freedom and q -form fields

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Abstract

A general action is proposed for the fields of q -dimensional differential form over the compact Riemannian manifold of arbitrary dimensions. Mathematical tools come from the well-known de Rham-Kodaira decomposing theorem on the harmonic integral. We have a field-theoretic action suitable for strings and p -branes with or without spin degrees of freedom. In a completely-kinematical way is derived the generalized Maxwell theory with a magnetic monopole over a curved space-time, where we have a new type of gauge transformations.

1 Introduction

It goes without saying that field theories play a central role in drawing a particle picture. They are especially important to explore a way to construct a theoretical view on a *curved* space-time (of more than four dimensions). Recently-developed theories of strings[1] and membranes[2], as well as those of two-dimensional gravity[3], go along this way. If one completes a picture with a general action, one may have a clear understanding about why the fundamental structure is of one dimension (a string), excluding other extended structures of two or more dimensions.

The first purpose of this paper is to obtain a general action for the fields of q -dimensional differential forms on a general curved space-time. In such a way can we deal not only with strings and p -branes (p -dimensional extended objects), but also with vector and tensor fields as assigned on each point of a compact Riemannian manifold (e.g., a sphere or a torus of general dimensions).

Our next aim is, as a result of this treatment, to generalize the conventional Maxwell theory to that on the *curved* space-time of *arbitrary dimensions*. Our method is based on the mathematical theory having been developed by de Rham and Kodaira[4]. In the theory of harmonic integrals the elegant theorem, having been now crowned with the names of the two brilliant mathematicians, says that an arbitrary differential form consists of three parts: a harmonic form, a d -boundary and a δ -boundary. With this theorem we derive a general Maxwell theory only *kinematically*, i. e., through mathematical manipulation. We have an electromagnetic field coming from the d -boundary, whereas a magnetic monopole field from the δ -boundary. We are thus to have a generalized Maxwell theory with an electric charge and a magnetic monopole on an arbitrary-dimensional curved space-time.

In this paper we proceed by taking various concrete examples to construct a field theory. Section 2 treats an algebraic method for obtaining a general act ion. Sections 3 to 5 are devoted to concrete examples. In Sect.6 we put concluding remarks and

summary. Two often-used mathematical formulas are listed in Appendix.

We hope the method developed here will become one of the steps which one makes forward to construct the field theory of all extended objects — strings and p -branes with or without *spin degrees of freedom* — based on algebraic geometry.

2 A general action with q -forms

Let us start with a Riemannian manifold M^n , where we, the observers, live, and with a submanifold \bar{M}^m , where particles live (n, m : dimension of the spaces; $n \geq m$). Both M^n and \bar{M}^m are supposed to be *compact* — compact only because mathematicians construct a beautiful theory of harmonic forms over *compact* spaces, and de Rham-Kodaira's theorem or Hodge's theorem has not yet been proven with respect to the differential forms over *non-compact* spaces.

We will admit the space \bar{M}^m of a particle to be a submanifold of M^n . For instance, \bar{M}^m may be a circle or a sphere within an n -dimensional (compact) space M^n . The local coordinate systems of M^n and \bar{M}^m shall be denoted by (x^μ) and (u^i) , respectively [$\mu = 1, 2, \dots, n; i = 1, 2, \dots, m$][5]. A point (u^1, u^2, \dots, u^m) of \bar{M}^m is, at the same time, a point of M^n , so that it is also expressed by $x^\mu = x^\mu(u^i)$. In a conventional quantum field theory, point particles, scalar fields, vector or higher-rank tensor fields, or spinor fields are attributed to each point of \bar{M}^m . In this view we are to assign a q -dimensional differential form (*q -form*) $F^{(q)}$ to each point of \bar{M}^m , which is expressed, as mentioned above, by the local coordinate (u^1, u^2, \dots, u^m) or by $x^\mu = x^\mu(u^i)$. Physical objects — point particles, strings or electromagnetic fields — should be identified with these q -forms.

We then make an action with $F^{(q)}$. One of the candidates for the action S is $(F^{(q)}, F^{(q)}) \equiv \int_{\bar{M}^m} F^{(q)} * F^{(q)}$, where $*$ means Hodge's star operator transforming a q -form into an $(m - q)$ -form. Expressed with respect to an *orthonormal basis*

$\omega_1, \omega_2, \dots, \omega_m$, it becomes

$$*(\omega_{i_1} \wedge \omega_{i_2} \wedge \dots \wedge \omega_{i_q}) = \frac{1}{(m-q)!} \delta \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & \dots & \dots & \dots & m \\ i_1 & \dots & i_q, & j_1 & \dots & j_{m-q} \end{pmatrix} \omega_{j_1} \wedge \omega_{j_2} \wedge \dots \wedge \omega_{j_{m-q}}, \quad (2.1)$$

where $\delta(\dots)$ denotes the signature (\pm) of the permutation and the summation convention over repeated indices is, here and hereafter, always implied. The inner product $(F^{(q)}, F^{(q)})$ is a scalar and shares a property of scalarity with the action S . Let us, therefore, admit the action S to be proportional to $(F^{(q)}, F^{(q)})$ and investigate each case that we confront with in the conventional theoretical physics. Thus we put

$$\begin{aligned} S &= (F^{(q)}, F^{(q)}) = \int_{\bar{M}^m} \mathcal{S} \\ &= \int_{\bar{M}^m} \mathcal{L} du^1 \wedge du^2 \wedge \dots \wedge du^m, \\ \mathcal{S} &\equiv F^{(q)} * F^{(q)} = \mathcal{L} du^1 \wedge du^2 \wedge \dots \wedge du^m. \end{aligned} \quad (2.2)$$

Here \mathcal{S} is an *action form*, but we will sometimes call it by the same name *action*. \mathcal{L} is interpreted as a Lagrangian density.

According to the well-known de Rham-Kodaira theorem, an arbitrary q -form decomposes into the three mutually orthogonal q -forms:

$$F^{(q)} = F_I^{(q)} + F_{II}^{(q)} + F_{III}^{(q)}, \quad (2.3)$$

where $F_I^{(q)}$ is a harmonic form, meaning[6]

$$dF_I^{(q)} = \delta F_I^{(q)} = 0, \quad (2.4)$$

and $F_{II}^{(q)}$ is a d -boundary, and $F_{III}^{(q)}$ is a δ -boundary (coboundary). Here δ is Hodge's adjoint operator, which implies $\delta = (-1)^{m(q-1)+1} * d *$ when operated to q -forms over the m -dimensional space. There exist, therefore, a $(q-1)$ -form $A_{II}^{(q-1)}$ and a $(q+1)$ -form $A_{III}^{(q+1)}$, such that

$$F_{II}^{(q)} = dA_{II}^{(q-1)} ; F_{III}^{(q)} = \delta A_{III}^{(q+1)}. \quad (2.5)$$

The action S is (proportional to) $(F^{(q)}, F^{(q)})$;

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{S} &\equiv (F^{(q)}, F^{(q)}) \\ &= (F_I^{(q)}, F_I^{(q)}) + (A_{II}^{(q-1)}, \delta dA_{II}^{(q-1)}) + (A_{III}^{(q+1)}, d\delta A_{III}^{(q+1)}), \\ S &\equiv \int_{\bar{M}^m} \mathcal{S} = \int \mathcal{L} du^1 \wedge du^2 \wedge \dots \wedge du^m.\end{aligned}\quad (2.6)$$

The physical meaning of Eq.(2.6) is whatever we want to discuss in this paper and will be described in detail from now on.

3 Example 1. point particles, strings and p -branes

We first assign $F^{(0)} = 1$ to a point (u^1, \dots, u^m) of the submanifold \bar{M}^m , and we always make use of the relative (induced) metric \bar{g}_{ij} for \bar{M}^m (so that the intrinsic metric of the submanifold is irrelevant).

$$\bar{g}_{ij} \equiv \frac{\partial x^\mu(u)}{\partial u^i} \frac{\partial x^\nu(u)}{\partial u^j} g_{\mu\nu}, \quad (3.1)$$

where $g_{\mu\nu}$ is a metric of the Riemannian space M^n . Since the volume element $dV \equiv \omega_1 \wedge \omega_2 \wedge \dots \wedge \omega_m$ is expressed, with respect to the local coordinate (u^i) , as

$$dV = \sqrt{\bar{g}} du^1 \wedge du^2 \wedge \dots \wedge du^m = *1, \quad (3.2)$$

we immediately find

$$(F^{(0)}, F^{(0)}) = \int_{\bar{M}^m} \sqrt{\bar{g}} du^1 \wedge du^2 \wedge \dots \wedge du^m, \quad (3.3)$$

with $\bar{g} = \det(g_{ij})$.

When $n = 4$ and $m = 1$, we have

$$\bar{g} = g_{\mu\nu} \frac{dx^\mu}{du^1} \frac{dx^\nu}{du^1} = g_{\mu\nu} \dot{x}^\mu \dot{x}^\nu, \quad (3.4)$$

(\cdot means d/dt), hence

$$\begin{aligned}(F, F) &= \int_{\bar{M}^1} ds, \\ ds^2 &= g_{\mu\nu} \dot{x}^\mu \dot{x}^\nu (du^1)^2 = g_{\mu\nu} dx^\mu dx^\nu,\end{aligned}\quad (3.5)$$

which indicates that (F, F) is an action (up to a constant) for a point particle in a curved 4-dimensional space, with u^1 , interpreted as a proper time.

On the contrary, if we take up a submanifold \bar{M}^2 , Eq.(3.3) becomes

$$(F^{(0)}, F^{(0)}) = \int_{\bar{M}^2} \sqrt{\bar{g}} du^1 \wedge du^2, \quad (3.6)$$

with

$$\bar{g} = \det\left(\frac{\partial x^\mu}{\partial u^i} \frac{\partial x^\nu}{\partial u^j} g_{\mu\nu}\right), \quad (3.7)$$

which is just the Nambu-Goto action in a *curved* space (with $u^1 = \tau$ and $u^2 = \sigma$ in a conventional notation). There, and here, the determinant \bar{g} of an induced metric plays an essential role. If we confront with an arbitrary submanifold \bar{M}^{p+1} (p : an arbitrary integer $\leq n - 1$, we are to have a p -brane, whose action is nothing but that given by Eq.(3.3) with $m = p + 1$.

Let us discuss the transformation property of the action or Lagrangian density . The transformation of \bar{M}^m into \bar{M}'^m without changing M^n [7] means reparametrization.

$$\begin{aligned} u^i &\rightarrow u'^i, \\ x^\mu(u^i) &\rightarrow x'^\mu(u'^i) = x^\mu(u^i). \end{aligned} \quad (3.8)$$

By this the volume element Eq.(3.2) does not change, so that our Lagrangian (density) for the p -brane is trivially invariant under the reparametrization. If we convert M^n into M'^n without changing \bar{M}^m , a general coordinate transformation

$$x^\mu(u^i) \rightarrow x'^\mu(u^i) \quad (3.9)$$

is induced, under which \bar{g}_{ij} does not change, because of the transformation property of the metric $g_{\mu\nu}$. Our action is trivially invariant also for this general coordinate transformation.

If we transform \bar{M}^m and M^n simultaneously, i.e.,

$$\begin{aligned} u^i &\rightarrow u'^i, \\ x^\mu(u^i) &\rightarrow x'^\mu(u'^i), \end{aligned} \quad (3.10)$$

we do not have an equality $x'^\mu(u'^i) = x^\mu(u^i)$. This type of transformations is examined, as an example, for $n = 3$ and $m = 2$ as follows. Let us take $M^3 = \mathbb{R}^3$ (compactified), and $\bar{M}^2 = \mathbb{S}^2$ (2-dim surface of a sphere) whose local coordinate system is (u^1, u^2) . A point of \mathbb{S}^2 is expressed by (u^1, u^2) , but it is at the same time a point (x^1, x^2, x^3) of \mathbb{R}^3 . We give the relation between the two coordinate systems by the stereographic projection:

$$\begin{aligned} x^1 &= \frac{2r^2u^1}{(u^1)^2 + (u^2)^2 + r^2}, \\ x^2 &= \frac{2r^2u^2}{(u^1)^2 + (u^2)^2 + r^2}, \\ x^3 &= \frac{r[r^2 - (u^1)^2 - (u^2)^2]}{(u^1)^2 + (u^2)^2 + r^2}, \end{aligned} \tag{3.11}$$

where r is the radius of the sphere defining \mathbb{S}^2 . The transformation $(u^1, u^2) \rightarrow (u'^1, u'^2)$ induces the transformation $(x^1, x^2, x^3) \rightarrow (x'^1, x'^2, x'^3)$, and vice versa. The definition of the metric $g_{\mu\nu}$ for M^n and the induced one \bar{g}_{ij} for \bar{M}^m tells us

$$g'_{\mu\nu}(x') = \frac{\partial x^\rho}{\partial x'^\mu} \frac{\partial x^\delta}{\partial x'^\nu} g_{\rho\delta}(x), \tag{3.12}$$

and

$$\bar{g}'_{ij}(u') = \frac{\partial u^k}{\partial u'^i} \frac{\partial u^l}{\partial u'^j} \bar{g}_{kl}(u), \tag{3.13}$$

so that we have

$$\sqrt{\bar{g}'(u')} du'^1 \wedge \dots \wedge du'^m = \sqrt{\bar{g}(u)} du^1 \wedge \dots \wedge du^m, \tag{3.14}$$

hence follows the invariance of the action.

4 Example 2. scalar fields

Now we consider the case where a scalar field $\phi(x^\mu(u^i))$ is assigned to each point $x^\mu(u^i)$. From now on we regard every quantity as that given over the subspace \bar{M}^m , hence we will write the field simply as $\phi(u^i)$ instead of $\phi(x^\mu(u^i))$, etc.

An arbitrary 0-form — a scalar field — decomposes into two parts:

$$F^{(0)} = F_I^{(0)} + F_{III}^{(0)}. \quad (4.1)$$

$F_I^{(0)}$ is given by

$$F_I^{(0)} = \phi(u), \quad (4.2)$$

with which we obtain

$$(F_I^{(0)}, F_I^{(0)}) = \phi^2(u)dV, \quad (4.3)$$

meaning a mass term of a scalar field. $F_{III}^{(0)}$ is composed, on the contrary, of a δ -boundary of a 1-form:

$$\begin{aligned} F_{III}^{(0)} &= \delta A^{(1)}, \\ A^{(1)} &= A_i du^i. \end{aligned} \quad (4.4)$$

Hence we have

$$F_{III}^{(0)} = -\partial_k(\sqrt{\bar{g}}A^k)\sqrt{\bar{g}}\bar{g}^{11}\bar{g}^{22}\dots\bar{g}^{mm}, \quad (4.5)$$

where, as usual,

$$A^k = \bar{g}^{kl}A_l \text{ and } \partial_k = \frac{\partial}{\partial u^k}, \quad (4.6)$$

and (\bar{g}^{ij}) is the inverse of (\bar{g}_{ij}) . In a special case, where we work with a flat space and an orthonormal basis, i.e.,

$$\bar{g}^{ij} = \delta^{ij} \text{ and } du^i = \omega^i, \quad (4.7)$$

we have a simple form

$$F_{III}^{(0)} = -\partial_k A^k, \quad (4.8)$$

by which the action form \mathcal{S} becomes

$$\mathcal{S} = (\partial_k A^k)^2 dV. \quad (4.9)$$

This is the ‘kinetic’ term of the *k-vector field* A^k .

The *gauge transformation* exists for this field:

$$\begin{aligned} A^{(1)} &\rightarrow \tilde{A}^{(1)} = A^{(1)} + \delta A^{(2)}, \\ A^{(2)} &= \frac{1}{2} A_{i_1 i_2} du^{i_1} \wedge du^{i_2}. \end{aligned} \quad (4.10)$$

In components, it is written as

$$\tilde{A}_h = A_h + \frac{1}{2(m-2)!} \delta \left(\begin{array}{ccccc} h & l_1 & \dots & \dots & l_{m-1} \\ i_1 & i_2 & j_1 & \dots & j_{m-2} \end{array} \right) \frac{\partial(\sqrt{\bar{g}} A^{i_1 i_2})}{\partial u^k} \sqrt{\bar{g}} \bar{g}^{kl_1} \bar{g}^{l_2 j_1} \dots \bar{g}^{l_{m-1} j_{m-2}}. \quad (4.11)$$

One can further calculate , if one wants to , to have a beautiful form:

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{A}_i &= A_i - \frac{1}{2} \delta \left(\begin{array}{cc} j_1 & j_2 \\ k & i \end{array} \right) \bar{g}^{kl} D_l A_{j_1 j_2}, \\ D_l A_{j_1 j_2} &= \frac{\partial A_{j_1 j_2}}{\partial u^l} - A_{k j_2} \text{Gamma}_{j_1 l}^k - A_{j_1 k} \Gamma_{j_2 l}^k, \end{aligned} \quad (4.12)$$

where Γ_{jk}^i is the well-known affine connection.

$$\Gamma_{jk}^i = \frac{1}{2} g^{il} \left(\frac{\partial \bar{g}_{jl}}{\partial u^k} + \frac{\partial \bar{g}_{lk}}{\partial u^j} - \frac{\partial \bar{g}_{jk}}{\partial u^l} \right). \quad (4.13)$$

Note that our fundamental fields are the A_i , and the gauge transformation is obtained with the $A_{i_1 i_2}$ of the rank *higher by one* than the former. This is, of course, due to the nilpotency of δ , $\delta^2 = 0$, and typical of our new type of formulation.

5 Example 3. vector fields

When a 1-form $F^{(1)}$ is assigned to each point of \bar{M}^m , we have

$$F^{(1)} = F_I^{(1)} + F_{II}^{(1)} + F_{III}^{(1)}. \quad (5.1)$$

First we will see the contribution of $F_I^{(1)}$ to the action, which is harmonic. Writing as

$$F_I^{(1)} = F_i du^i, \quad (5.2)$$

we immediately have an action (form)

$$\mathcal{S}_I = F_I^{(1)} * F_I^{(1)} = F_i F^i \sqrt{\bar{g}} du^1 \wedge \dots \wedge du^m \quad (5.3)$$

The contribution of the d -boundary is calculated in the same way. Putting

$$F_{II}^{(1)} = dA^{(0)}, \quad (5.4)$$

we have the action

$$\mathcal{S}_{II} = g^{ij} \partial_i A^{(0)} \partial_j A^{(0)} \sqrt{\bar{g}} du^1 \wedge \dots \wedge du^m, \quad (5.5)$$

which expresses a massless scalar particle $A^{(0)}$. Freedom of the choice of gauges does not here appear.

The contribution of the δ -boundary is, on the contrary, rather complicated in calculation. If we put

$$\begin{aligned} F_{III}^{(1)} &= \delta A^{(2)}, \\ A^{(2)} &= \frac{1}{2} A_{i_1 i_2} du^{i_1} \wedge du^{i_2}, \\ F_{III}^{(1)} &= F_i du^i, \end{aligned} \quad (5.6)$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned} F_h &= \delta \begin{pmatrix} h & l_1 & l_2 & \dots & l_{m-1} \\ i_1 & i_2 & j_1 & \dots & j_{m-2} \end{pmatrix} \frac{\partial}{\partial u^k} (\sqrt{\bar{g}} A^{i_1 i_2}) \sqrt{\bar{g}} \bar{g}^{kl_1} \bar{g}^{j_1 l_2} \dots \bar{g}^{j_{m-2} l_{m-1}} \\ &= -\frac{1}{2} \delta \begin{pmatrix} j_1 & j_2 \\ k & h \end{pmatrix} \bar{g}^{kl} D_l A_{j_1 j_2}, \end{aligned} \quad (5.7)$$

with D_l , defined in Eq.(4.13)[8]. The action is

$$\mathcal{S}_{III} = F_i F^i \sqrt{\bar{g}} du^1 \wedge \dots \wedge du^m. \quad (5.8)$$

The gauge transformation is given in this case by

$$\begin{aligned} A^{(2)} &\rightarrow \tilde{A}^{(2)} = A^{(2)} + \delta A^{(3)}, \\ A^{(3)} &= \frac{1}{3!} A_{i_1 i_2 i_3} du^{i_1} \wedge du^{i_2} \wedge du^{i_3}, \end{aligned} \quad (5.9)$$

which trivially leads to the relation

$$F_3^{(1)} = \delta A^{(2)} = \delta \tilde{A}^{(2)}. \quad (5.10)$$

When expressed in components, it is written as

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{A}_{h_1 h_2} &= A_{h_1 h_2} - \frac{1}{3!(m-3)!} \delta \left(\begin{array}{cccccc} i_1 & i_2 & i_3 & j_1 & \dots & j_{m-3} \\ h_1 & h_2 & l_1 & \dots & \dots & l_{m-2} \end{array} \right) \frac{\partial}{\partial u^k} (\sqrt{\bar{g}} A^{i_1 i_2 i_3}) \\ &\times \sqrt{\bar{g}} \bar{g}^{kl_1} \bar{g}^{j_1 l_2} \dots \bar{g}^{j_{m-3} l_{m-2}}, \end{aligned} \quad (5.11)$$

where, of course, the components with superscript are related to those with subscript in a conventional manner, as has been described repeatedly.

$$A^{i_1 i_2 i_3} = \bar{g}^{i_1 j_1} \bar{g}^{i_2 j_2} \bar{g}^{i_3 j_3} A_{j_1 j_2 j_3}. \quad (5.12)$$

We finally express Eq.(5.11) in an elegant form.

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{A}_{h_1 h_2}^{(2)} &= A_{h_1 h_2}^{(2)} - \frac{1}{3!} \delta \left(\begin{array}{ccc} j_1 & j_2 & j_3 \\ k & h_1 & h_2 \end{array} \right) \bar{g}^{kl} D_l A_{j_1 j_2 j_3}, \\ D_l A_{j_1 j_2 j_3} &= \frac{\partial A_{j_1 j_2 j_3}}{\partial u^l} - A_{k j_2 j_3} \Gamma_{j_1 l}^k - A_{j_1 k j_3} \Gamma_{j_2 l}^k - A_{j_1 j_2 k} \Gamma_{j_3 l}^k. \end{aligned} \quad (5.13)$$

Especially when the space-time is flat and one takes an orthonormal reference frame, one has

$$F_i = -\frac{1}{2} \delta \left(\begin{array}{cc} k & i \\ i_1 & i_2 \end{array} \right) \frac{\partial A^{i_1 i_2}}{\partial u^k}, \quad (5.14)$$

which further reduces to a familiar form for $m = 4$:

$$\begin{aligned} F^i &= \partial_k A^{ik} \\ \mathcal{S} &= \partial_k A^{ik} \partial_l A^{il} dV. \end{aligned} \quad (5.15)$$

The gauge transformation becomes in this case

$$\tilde{A}_{i_1 i_2} = A_{i_1 i_2} - \partial_k A_{i_1 i_2 k}. \quad (5.16)$$

Needless to say, the total action comes from adding \mathcal{S}_{I} , \mathcal{S}_{II} and \mathcal{S}_{III} . A new type of gauge transformations Eq.(5.13) appears, due to the coboundary property of $F_{\text{III}}^{(1)}$.

6 Example 4. tensor fields

Now we come to the case where a 2-form is assigned to each point of \bar{M}^m , the case of which is most useful and attractive for future development.

A 2-form decomposes, as usual, into the following three:

$$F^{(2)} = F_I^{(2)} + F_{II}^{(2)} + F_{III}^{(2)}. \quad (6.1)$$

The harmonic form $F_I^{(2)}$ is written with the components A_{ij} as follows:

$$F_I^{(2)} = \frac{1}{2} A_{i_1 i_2} du^{i_1} \wedge du^{i_2}, \quad (6.2)$$

from which we have

$$S_I = F_I^{(2)} * F_I^{(2)} = \frac{1}{2} A_{i_1 i_2} A^{i_1 i_2} \sqrt{\bar{g}} du^1 \wedge \dots \wedge du^m. \quad (6.3)$$

The contribution of the d -boundary is expressed with our fundamental 1-form $A^{(1)}$.

$$F_{II}^{(2)} = dA^{(1)}. \quad (6.4)$$

This further reduces, when written in components,

$$\begin{aligned} F_{II}^{(2)} &= \frac{1}{2} F_{i_1 i_2} du^{i_1} \wedge du^{i_2}, \\ A^{(1)} &= A_i du^i, \end{aligned} \quad (6.5)$$

to a familiar relation

$$F_{ij} = \partial_i A_j - \partial_j A_i, \quad (6.6)$$

($\partial_i = \partial/\partial u^i$), which shows that F_{ij} is a field-strength. The gauge transformation here is given by

$$A^{(1)} \rightarrow \tilde{A}^{(1)} = A^{(1)} + dA^{(0)}. \quad (6.7)$$

Namely, it is expressed in components as

$$\tilde{A}_i = A_i + \partial_i A(u), \quad (6.8)$$

with $A(u)$, an arbitrary scalar function, which is a familiar form in the conventional Maxwell electromagnetic theory. The invariance of the contribution to $F_{\text{II}}^{(2)}$ owes self-evidently, to the nilpotency $d^2 = 0$.

If we further put

$$\delta F_{\text{II}}^{(2)} = \delta dA^{(1)} = J, \quad (6.9)$$

we have

$$-\frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{(m-2)!} \delta \begin{pmatrix} h & l_1 & l_2 & \dots & l_{m-1} \\ i_1 & i_2 & j_1 & \dots & j_{m-2} \end{pmatrix} \frac{\partial}{\partial u^k} (\sqrt{\bar{g}} F^{i_1 i_2}) \sqrt{\bar{g}} \bar{g}^{l_1 k} \bar{g}^{l_2 j_1} \dots \bar{g}^{l_{m-1} j_{m-2}} = J_h. \quad (6.10)$$

After some lengthy calculations we finally have the following beautiful form.

$$-\frac{1}{2} \delta \begin{pmatrix} i_1 & i_2 \\ j & h \end{pmatrix} \bar{g}^{jl} D_l F_{i_1 i_2} = J_h. \quad (6.11)$$

The covariant derivative D_l is given in Eq.(4.12). Equation (6.10) or (6.11) takes a simple form for the *flat* m -dimensional space, expressed in an *orthonormal basis*.

$$F_{ij},^j = J_i \quad (6.12)$$

This is nothing but the Maxwell equation in an m -dimensional space, with J_i , interpreted as an electromagnetic current density. One therefore finds that Eq.(6.9) or (6.11) is the generalized Maxwell equation in the *curved m -dimensional space*.

From the viewpoint of *action-at-a-distance*[9], vector fields are composed of matter fields. Namely, vector fields can be traced by looking at the matter fields. Our standpoint is, on the contrary, such that our fundamental objects are vectors and we can trace the matter field by regarding the vector fields as such and calculating the left-hand side of Eq.(6.12) with Eq.(6.6). Our electromagnetic current of the matter $J_i(u)$ is determined by the vector fields $A_i(u)$.

Now comes the contribution of the δ -boundary :

$$F_{\text{III}}^{(2)} = \delta A^{(3)}, \quad (6.13)$$

where $A^{(3)}$ is a 3-form. Expressed, as usual, in components

$$\begin{aligned} F_{\text{III}}^{(2)} &= \frac{1}{2} F_{i_1 i_2} du^{i_1} \wedge du^{i_2}, \\ A^{(3)} &= \frac{1}{6} A_{i_1 i_2 i_3} du^{i_1} \wedge du^{i_2} \wedge du^{i_3}, \end{aligned} \quad (6.14)$$

Eq.(6.13) leads us to

$$\begin{aligned} F_{h_1 h_2} &= -\frac{1}{6(m-3)!} \delta \left(\begin{array}{cccccc} h_1 & h_2 & l_1 & \dots & \dots & l_{m-2} \\ i_1 & i_2 & i_3 & j_1 & \dots & j_{m-3} \end{array} \right) \\ &\quad \times \frac{\partial}{\partial u^k} (\sqrt{\bar{g}} A^{i_1 i_2 i_3}) \sqrt{\bar{g}} \bar{g}^{l_1 k} \bar{g}^{l_2 j_1} \dots \bar{g}^{l_{m-2} j_{m-3}}. \end{aligned} \quad (6.15)$$

Along the same line already mentioned repeatedly we further have

$$F_{i_1 i_2} = -\frac{1}{6} \delta \left(\begin{array}{ccc} j_1 & j_2 & j_3 \\ k & i_1 & i_2 \end{array} \right) \bar{g}^{kl} D_l A_{j_1 j_2 j_3}, \quad (6.16)$$

with the covariant derivative $D_l A_{j_1 j_2 j_3}$, defined in Eq.(5.13). Putting

$$\begin{aligned} dF_{\text{III}}^{(2)} &= d\delta A^{(3)} = -* K^{(m-3)}, \\ K^{(m-3)} &= \frac{1}{(n-3)!} K_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_{m-3}} du^{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge du^{i_{m-3}}, \end{aligned} \quad (6.17)$$

one has the relation between the components of $F_{\text{III}}^{(2)}$ and $K^{(m-3)}$:

$$F_{i_1 i_2, i_3} + F_{i_2 i_3, i_1} + F_{i_3 i_1, i_2} = -\frac{1}{(m-3)!} \delta \left(\begin{array}{cccccc} 1 & 2 & \dots & \dots & \dots & m \\ j_1 & \dots & j_{m-3} & i_1 & i_2 & i_3 \end{array} \right) \sqrt{\bar{g}} K^{j_1 \dots j_{m-3}}, \quad (6.18)$$

where $F_{i_1 i_2, i_3} \equiv \partial F_{i_1 i_2} / \partial u^{i_3}$, etc.. If our space-time \bar{M}^m is flat and the dimension is $m = 4$, these expressions reduce to a familiar form.

$$\begin{aligned} F_{\mu\nu} &= -\partial^\rho A_{\mu\nu\rho}, \\ \tilde{F}_{\mu\nu},^\nu &= K_\mu, \end{aligned} \quad (6.19)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{F}_{\mu\nu} &= \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} F^{\rho \text{ sigma}}, \\ K &= K_\mu du^\mu. \end{aligned} \quad (6.20)$$

Equations (6.19) and (6.20) tell us that K_μ is a *magnetic monopole current*[10].

One finds, here also, that one stands on the viewpoint of tracing a monopole by regarding the three form $A^{(3)}$ as a fundamental object.

The *gauge transformation* is, in this case, given by

$$A^{(3)} \rightarrow \tilde{A}^{(3)} = A^{(3)} + \delta A^{(4)}. \quad (6.21)$$

In components is it written as

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{A}_{h_1 h_2 h_3} &= A_{h_1 h_2 h_3} + \frac{1}{4!(m-4)!} \delta \left(\begin{array}{ccccccc} h_1 & h_2 & h_3 & l_1 & \dots & \dots & l_{m-3} \\ i_1 & i_2 & i_3 & i_4 & j_1 & \dots & j_{m-4} \end{array} \right) \\ &\times \frac{\partial}{\partial u^k} (\sqrt{\bar{g}} A^{i_1 i_2 i_3 i_4}) \sqrt{\bar{g}} \bar{g}^{l_1 k} \bar{g}^{l_2 j_1} \dots \bar{g}^{l_{m-3} j_{m-4}}, \end{aligned} \quad (6.22)$$

which one can further rewrite in the following form.

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{A}_{i_1 i_2 i_3} &= A_{i_1 i_2 i_3} + \frac{1}{4!} \delta \left(\begin{array}{cccc} j_1 & j_2 & j_3 & j_4 \\ k & i_1 & i_2 & i_3 \end{array} \right) g^{kl} D_l A_{j_1 j_2 j_3 j_4}, \\ D_l A_{j_1 j_2 j_3 j_4} &= \frac{\partial A_{j_1 j_2 j_3 j_4}}{\partial u^l} - A_{k j_2 j_3 j_4} \Gamma_{j_1 l}^k - A_{j_1 k j_3 j_4} \Gamma_{j_2 l}^k - A_{j_1 j_2 k j_4} \Gamma_{j_3 l}^k - A_{j_1 j_2 j_3 k} \Gamma_{j_4 l}. \end{aligned} \quad (6.23)$$

The action form $\mathcal{S}_{\text{III}} = F_{\text{III}}^{(2)} * F_{\text{III}}^{(2)}$ can be, of course, calculated along the same line already mentioned. And the total action \mathcal{S} is

$$\mathcal{S} = \mathcal{S}_{\text{I}} + \mathcal{S}_{\text{II}} + \mathcal{S}_{\text{III}}. \quad (6.24)$$

7 Summary and conclusions

We have assigned a differential q -form $F^{(q)}$ to each point $x^\mu = x^\mu(u^i)$ of the submanifold \bar{M}^m of the extended object's world, included in our observer's world M^n , thus endowing a particle *with an intrinsic degree of freedom*. An arbitrary q -form decomposes into a harmonic form, a d -boundary plus a δ -boundary. With $F^{(q)}$ we can

make a scalar $(F^{(q)}, F^{(q)})$ defined by Eq.(2.2) and we regard this as an action for the system.

Now, to say more concretely, if the assigned form is of zero, one is to have a generalized action for a point particle, a string or a p -brane in a curved space-time. The well-known Nambu-Goto action as well as the membrane action is thus naturally derived with this general principle. Owing to the construction itself the action is reparametrization-invariant and, at the same time, invariant under the general coordinate transformation. For $q \geq 1$ we obtain a non-trivial action with spin degrees of freedom. The case of $q = 2$ is probably most attractive. The d -boundary $F_{\text{II}}^{(2)}$ has a fundamental 1-form $A^{(1)}$, and the world made of it is a conventional electromagnetic one, based on the Maxwell equation. The δ -boundary $F_{\text{III}}^{(2)}$ has, on the contrary, a fundamental 3-form $A^{(3)}$, which is interpreted as a magnetic monopole current (at least in case of $m = 4$). Our equation differs from the conventional one only in that the former is more general than the latter, if one admits the existence of monopoles. The former is formulated on a general curved space-time with an arbitrary space-time dimension. In the conventional picture the space-time is flat. So if one wants to construct the theory on curved space-time, one feels it ambiguous to decide where to replace $\det(\delta_{ij}) = 1$ by $\det(g_{ij}) \neq 1$.

Anyway one can construct an arbitrary q -form field over a general Riemannian manifold through de-Rham-Kodaira's theorem. Thus, as usual, one is to assign spin degrees of freedom.

This last statement is important. A p -brane is usually considered as a p -dimensional extended object \bar{M}^{p+1} moving across our world M^n . Each point of a p -brane has no internal degree of freedom. On the contrary, if one takes up a q -form over $\bar{M}^m \subset M^n$, one is to have an internal degree of freedom based on the number of components of the q -form. The dimension of the local coordinate system (u^1, \dots, u^m) of \bar{M}^m indicates the dimension less by 1 ($p = m - 1$) of the extended object and the dimension of the q -form represents the internal degree of each point. A string is generated for $m = 2$

and $q = 0$, whereas a conventional p -brane, for $m = p + 1$ and $q = 0$.

Lastly we comment on the newly-introduced gauge transformation. Gauge freedom comes from the nilpotency of the boundary operators d and $\delta : d^2 = 0$ and $\delta^2 = 0$, the latter of which induces a new type of gauge transformations. Equations(4.10), (5.9) and (6.21) are such examples. In the Dirac monopole theory with $n = m = 4$ and $q = 2$, we have a one-component scalar $A^{(4)}$ which contributes to $A^{(3)}$, a monopole current.

Detail analysis along this way is worth studying and may promise a fruitful result about physical extended object.

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A Hodge's star operator

As defined by Eq.(2.1), Hodge's star operator $*$ is an isomorphism of \mathcal{H}^q (liner space of q -forms) into \mathcal{H}^{m-q} . Here, in this appendix, we only write down two important formulas which we frequently use in calculation in Sects.4 to 6.

For an arbitrary q -form

$$\varphi = \frac{1}{q!} \varphi_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_q} du^{i_1} \wedge du^{i_2} \wedge \dots \wedge du^{i_q}, \quad (\text{A.1})$$

we have

$$* \varphi = \frac{1}{(m-q)! q!} \delta \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & \dots & \dots & \dots & m \\ i_1 & \dots & i_q & j_1 & \dots & j_{m-q} \end{pmatrix} \sqrt{\bar{g}} \varphi^{i_1 \dots i_q} du^{j_1} \wedge \dots \wedge du^{j_{m-q}}, \quad (\text{A.2})$$

where

$$\varphi^{i_1 \dots i_q} = \bar{g}^{i_1 l_1} \dots \bar{g}^{i_q l_q} \varphi_{l_1 \dots l_q}, \quad (\text{A.3})$$

with \bar{g}_{ij} , the metric tensor.

As for a basis of \mathcal{H}^q , we have

$$* (du^{k_1} \wedge \dots \wedge du^{k_q}) = \frac{1}{(m-q)!} \delta \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & \dots & \dots & \dots & m \\ i_1 & \dots & i_q & j_1 & \dots & j_{m-q} \end{pmatrix} \times \sqrt{\bar{g}} \bar{g}^{i_1 k_1} \dots \bar{g}^{i_q k_q} du^{j_1} \wedge \dots \wedge du^{j_{m-q}}. \quad (\text{A.4})$$

Note that a factor $1/q!$ is removed here in the right-hand side of Eq.(A.4).

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- [5] We will also call the local coordinate system by the name of the manifold itself.
- [6] Our manifold is assumed to be compact, so that harmonicity reduces to Eq.(2.4).
- [7] We are transforming a local coordinate system into another; remember the footnote [5].

- [8] Here, and henceforth, the components of the tensors $A_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_n}$ are always antisymmetric with respect to the exchange of suffices.
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